

March 13, 1974

PRESIDENT: Senator Marvel and then Senator Anderson.

SENATOR MARVEL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. We've been debating this issue for a number of years and I would like to summarize what I think is the status of the situation at the moment. I in speaking against the motion to kill the bill. First of all, I think we have more partisanship in this Body than we've ever had before so if the people approved this, we will be okaying what we already have. Secondly, in my experience, the parties have become much more active as far as working with the Unicameral Legislature is concerned. Their party platforms indicate that they are taking stands on state issues far more than they have before. All you have to do is check back in the Blue Book a few years and check the party platforms the last couple of years and you'll see that this is true. The third point I would make is that partisanship helps to promote at least two sides so that when bills come before the committee, you've got two sides and you've got at least two sides when you get on the floor of this Legislature. And I think competition, whether it's in the committees or on the floor of this Legislature, is healthy and the final point I would make is that the political party is the greatest vehicle at the moment in this state or in this country to promote individual participation in government. And I think that this is a step ahead in the promotion of the political parties and therefore, I oppose the motion to kill the bill and support the motion to put the bill on the ballot and let the people vote on it.

PRESIDENT: Now, Senator Anderson, you were next to speak but I have made an omission. I have passed over Senator Kennedy and he was actually up first. Senator Kennedy, do you want to yield the floor to him? All right, Senator Anderson and then Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR ANDERSON: Thanks, Senator Kennedy. Mr. President and members of the Body. I'll try to make this brief because I think...I think we've pretty well covered the issue now. I rise in opposition to the kill motion in stating that the bill in its present form probably is not worth passing but this is something that we still can take care of by amendments later on down the way. The basic concept of the partisan Legislature is a concept that I do strongly support. I think that in looking at the Legislature, I sense that part of the enthusiasm that exists in the Legislature for a non-partisan system is because in some ways the non-partisan system is an easy way out. This is because in a non-partisan system there really is no discipline on the system. On any given issue, we can see anywhere from one to forty-nine different parties on any given issue. And I think that this is part of the advantage of a partisan system is that in our system of political pressure which results in laws being passed or not being passed, the partisan system in any other state or in the national government imposes a system of discipline on that political pressure system and makes it productive. And I think that Senator Marvel has gone on and has pointed out basically what the partisan system means to the American system of government. I think in not recognizing that we are turning our system on what has been the genius of American system and the genius of our system of government. And so I hope we can keep this bill alive.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kennedy, then Murphy, then Kelly.